

N E W S

Remember that silence is sometimes
the best answer

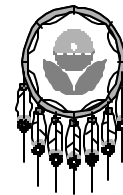
Be gentle with the earth.

L E T T E R

Vol. X No. II

February 1, 2000

Region 10 Tribal Newsletter



Work Shops and Conferences

February 11, Pesticide Medicine, Yakima, WA. This course brings together local & national experts on pesticide use, pesticide exposure & pesticide health effects. For information call 206/543-1069 or <http://depts.washington.edu/envhlth/conted.html>.

February 14-17, Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians "2000 Winter Conference, Airport Holiday Inn, Portland, OR. This years program features updates on the Health Care Improvement Act, National Congress of American Indians, National Indian Education Association, National Indian Gaming Association, Indian Child Welfare Act, to name a few. For info. call 503/241-0072.

March 15-19, Air Monitoring for Hazardous Materials (165.4), Seattle, WA. This course instructs participants in the practices and procedures for monitoring and sampling airborne hazardous materials. For info: Diane Ruthruff at 206/553-5139. No fee to tribes

March 21-23, 24th Annual Water Environmental School, Clackamas Community College, OR. Topics will provide supplemental occupational education, training, and technical upgrading. (2.3 CEUs) For information: Mike Fenning at 503/823-2496.

April 13-15, The Second Biennial Native American Studies Conference, Boise State University, Boise, ID. The conference will focus on a variety of issues pertaining to Native American Studies. For information Dr. Cox at 208/426-4329.

April 17-20, "2000 Ways to Protect Mother Earth" NTEC's Seventh National Conference, Mashantuckety Pequot Foxwoods Casino and Resort, Connecticut. For additional information call NETC at 505/242-2654.

June 12-16, 24th National Indian Timber Symposium, Lewiston, Idaho. For additional information call the Intertribal Timber Council at 503/282-4296.

June 18-20, WEF/PNPCA Operations & Maintenance Speciality Conference, Portland, OR. This is the first conference of this type to be held in the northwest, and is titled "Meeting the Challenges at Small and Medium Sized WWTPs." For information contact Mark Walter, PNPCA at 503/692-8106. e-mail bvrequipco@AOL.com.

July 17-19, Land, Mining, and Forest Restoration Symposium & Workshop, Denver West Marriott, Denver, CO. The Successful use of Residuals/Biosolids/Organic Matter for Reclamation Activities are areas to be covered. For additional information contact Laura Gorman at 720/931-9325 or Chris Gannon (Warm Springs) at 541/553-3557.

Pollution Prevention Grant

EPA Region 10 Grant Solicitation for the Pollution Prevention Incentives for States (PPIS), supporting State, Tribal, and Alaska Native Village programs that address the reduction or elimination of pollution across environmental media: air, land, and water.

The Office for Innovation will be sending out solicitation letters of

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To receive a copy call:

AK..Jean.....907/271-6558
ID..Arlene.....208/378-5749
OR..Don.....503/326-5015
WA..Alison.....360/753-
8185
Tribal Office.....800/424-
4372
ext. 4011

request for proposals to all federally recognized tribes and Alaska Native Villages in Region 10 the week of January 11, 2000. For further information, visit our web site at www.epa.gov/r10earth/innovation.htm or contact Lucita Valiere at 206/553-2964.

Water Efficiency Information

A clearinghouse of water efficiency information is available through the Waterwiser program of the American Water Works Association (AWWA). Waterwiser provides a wide variety of water efficiency information, including on-line publications, a calendar of upcoming events, information on products and services, and more. Waterwiser is operated with the EPA and U. S. Bureau of Reclamation. To view: <http://www.waterwiser.org/>.

Risk Management Program

Facilities that are required to hold

public meetings to discuss their Risk Management Program (RMP) will find a

GAP

General Assistance Program grant applications must be sent to your EPA Project Officer (PO). If your grant award was made before September 30, 1999, the PO must receive the application by February 25, 2000 or post marked that day. If the award was after September 30, 1999, The application must be received by the PO or have a post mark of March 25, 2000. The Project Officer is shown in box 14 on the old form ; or under "EPA Project Officer" on the new. forms .

new RMP Network project fact sheet useful. The fact sheet describes how the Washington D.C. Suburban Sanitary Commission held a series of public meetings, and contains information on lessons learned by the commission, tips for advertising meetings, and hidden benefits of holding such meetings. To view: <http://www.epa.gov/ceppo/whatnew.html> and look for the title "RMP Network - Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission: Public Meeting Project Issued."

Biosolids Standards

The EPA is proposing a new standard for dioxins in biosolids. Biosolids are treated sewage sludge that can be recycled and applied as a fertilizer, disposed of in surface disposal units, or incinerated. The proposal sets a limit of 300 parts per trillion toxic equivalents for dioxins in biosolids that are to be recycled and applied to the land as fertilizer. Facilities that are preparing biosolids for land application would also be required to follow new monitoring, record keeping, and reporting requirements for dioxins in biosolids that are being placed in surface disposal units or incinerated. For a fact sheet and other information view: <http://www.epa.gov/OST/biosolids>.

Water Technician Training

The BIA will sponsor the water Resources Technician Training Program in the spring and (Alaska in the summer) of 2000.

Students who successfully complete the training course will receive a voucher, good for 1 year, for full-time temporary employment with their tribal government, as an entry level Water Resources Technician.

All selected students will be staying in a dormitory. No room and board is available at the training center for family members. Commuting to and from the training center is not recommended, and the BIA will not cover travel for commuting. For information contact Mo Baloch at 202/208-4004.

How the Air

Ancient Romans complained of odor

and soot from oil lamps, wood stoves, and coal burning. Dirty air continued through the Middle Ages and worsened in the 15th and 17th centuries, when use of coal increased. The Industrial Revolution required even more fuel to run factories and heat homes.

In more recent history, particulate air pollution has proven deadly, especially in the winter when atmospheric temperature inversion can trap pollutants in low lying areas.

That happened in 1930 in the Meuse River Valley of Belgium, where 60 people died and 6,000 became ill. It happened again in 1948 in Donora, Pennsylvania. For several days, fog trapped a deadly mix of particles from the valley's sulfuric acid, zinc, and steel factories. It killed 20 and sickened about 6,000. Nearly 40% of the population had respiratory problems.

The worst tragedy came in London in December 1952. London fog was nothing new; Conan Doyle wrote of it and Monet came to London especially to paint it. But the 1952 inversion was the worst in history, lasting four days and causing an estimated 4,700 more deaths than might have been expected.

Although conditions like the deadly 1952 London "black fog" are relatively rare, such incidents highlight the need for pollution control. The EPA and the Harvard School of Public Health estimate that up to 60,000 American die each year from exposure to soot.

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Old Cell Phones

Launched in 1996 by the Wireless Foundation, *Call to Protect* is a domestic violence prevention project to provide those in danger with instant access to help in the form of a wireless phone. CTIA member carriers, Motorola and Brightpoint, Inc., in cooperation with the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV), provides free wireless phones and airtime to the victims and their advocates.

Call to Protect wireless phones are preprogrammed so that the victims can reach help with the push of a button. For a victim living in fear of the next episode of domestic violence, this can

make the difference between living in terror and having the strength to protect themselves from their attacker. Call to Protect also provides wireless phones to domestic violence professionals so they can reach victims, report cases of abuse and contact emergency services.

Bottled Water

The International Bottled Water Association (IBWA) is the trade association for the bottled water industry. Founded in 1958, the association represents bottlers that account for approximately 85% of the total bottled water sales in the U.S. The association also has foreign bottlers who sell and distribute imported waters in the U.S. Membership is open to manufacturers of bottled water, suppliers, distributors, and other classes of membership. The association serves the membership with government relations, membership services, public relations activities, technical training, and various publications on the industry.

IBWA requires NSF inspections of all its members, to assure you that all of the required testing is done every year as required by the FDA and individual states, and that the test results are satisfactory. So, when purchasing bottled water, look on the label for the words "IBWA Bottler Member" or "Member of IBWA." Many member bottlers also voluntarily have their products certified by NSF, so you can also look for the NSF Mark on the label. However, use of the NSF Mark by the bottler is optional.

The IBWA can provide you with information on specific bottlers. You can visit their website at www.bottledwater.org, or call 800/WATER111.

Bottled Water Information

Bottled water is defined by the FDA as water that is intended for human consumption and is sealed in bottles or other containers with no added ingredients (except that it may optionally contain fluoride, or safe and suitable antimicrobial agents). There are several types of bottled water, depending upon the source of the water. The FDA has established Standards of Identity for

bottled water, which are uniform definitions applying to all bottled water in the U.S., regardless of where the water is purchased.

Artesian Water - Is from a well tapping confined aquifer, in which the water level stands at some height above the top of the aquifer. May also be known as "artesian well water."

Fluoridated - Contains fluoride added within the limitations established in the Code of Federal Regulations. This category often includes water classified as "For Infants," or "Nursery."

Ground Water - Is from a subsurface saturated zone that is under a pressure equal to or greater than atmospheric pressure.

Mineral Water - Contains not less than 250 parts per million (ppm) total dissolved solids (TDS), comes from a source tapped at one or more bore holes or springs, and originates from a geologically and physically protected underground water source. Mineral water is distinguished from other types of water by its constant level and relative proportions of minerals and trace elements at the point of emergence from the source, due to the cycles of natural fluctuations. No minerals may be added to this water. If the TDS content of mineral water is below 500 ppm, or if it is greater than 1,500 ppm, the statement "low mineral content," or the statement "high mineral content," respectively, will appear on the label. If the TDS of mineral water is between 500 and 1,500 ppm, no additional statement need appear.

Purified Water - Has been produced by distillation, deionization, reverse osmosis, or other suitable processes and meets the definition of "purified water" in the United States Pharmacopeia. May also be known as "demineralized water".

Sparkling Water - Contains, after treatment and possible replacement of carbon dioxide, the same amount of carbon dioxide that it had at emergence from the source.

Spring Water - is derived from an underground formation from which water flows naturally to the surface of the earth.

Sterile Water - Meets the requirements

under "Sterility Tests" <71> in the United States Pharmacopeia. May also be known as "sterilized water."

Well Water - Is taken from a hole which is bored, drilled, or otherwise constructed in the ground, tapping the water of an aquifer.

Benefits of Parks

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) has recently released a report on the economic benefits for open space. The report, *The Economic Benefits of Parks and Open Space: How Land Conservation Helps Communities Grow Smart and Protect the Bottom Line*, describes how open space preservation can be, rather than an expense, an investment that produces important economic benefits. Using examples from communities, the report presents data that community leaders and concerned citizens can use to make an economic case for parks and open space preservation. To view the report: <http://www.tpl.org/newsroom/reports/econbenz/main.html>.

Greenwash

If you have ever struggled to find a term to describe the act of trying to cover up poor environmental stewardship, you might appreciate the latest addition to the *Concise Oxford English Dictionary*. The 10th edition of the dictionary defines greenwash as "disinformation disseminated by an organization so as to present an environmentally responsible public image. Derivatives greenwashing (n). Origin from green on the pattern of whitewash."

Injection Well Rule

EPA has released new rules for Class V injection wells that eliminate or reduce injection wastes from large capacity cesspools and motor vehicle waste disposal wells.

Class V injection wells typically are shallow disposal systems that are used to place a variety of fluids below the land surface.

New motor vehicle waste disposal wells and new large cesspools will be prohibited nationwide as of April 2000.

Existing motor vehicle waste disposal wells, which typically receive waste fluids from vehicle maintenance and repair in unsewered areas, will be phased out through January 2007. Existing cesspools will be phased out nationwide by April 2005.

Water Quality Ordinances

The EPA Office of Water's Nonpoint Source Control Branch has developed a reference tool for local government officials to help them craft local ordinances to protect water quality. Governing officials can customize their existing or new ordinances using the examples on the following:

<http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/ordinance/>

Envirotext

Envirotext is a home page that may be considered as a one-stop shop for all information relating to Native American regulations and laws. Site at <http://www.envirotext.eh.doe.gov/>

Radon

Radon is a naturally-occurring radioactive gas that may cause cancer, and may be found in drinking water and indoor air. Some people who are exposed to radon in drinking water may have increased risk of getting cancer over the course of their lifetime, especially lung cancer. Radon in soil under homes is the biggest source of radon in indoor air, and presents a greater risk of lung cancer than radon in drinking water. As required by the Safe Drinking Water Act, EPA has developed a proposed regulation to reduce radon in drinking water that has a multimedia mitigation option to reduce radon in indoor air.

The new standards for radon in drinking water will allow states to focus most of their efforts on the greatest public health risks from radon- those in indoor air - while also reducing the risks from radon in drinking water.

Assessment Tool

State/Tribal and Federal Agency personnel often receive modeling reports with undocumented parameter values. The reports give parameter values, but often no indication if the value was measured, taken from the literature, the result of calibration, or some type of estimate. From this need, a set of "calculators" were developed to provide pre-packaged formulas and data for performing a number of site assessment calculations. The calculators run over the Internet and the user only needs Internet access and a JavaScript-enabled browser. Many of the applications are UST related, but are also useful for other projects. The philosophy behind OnSite calculations, and access to methods and data that are not commonly available. The latter include data on fuel composition and models for leaching from fuel lenses. The tool is available at the following website: <http://www.epa.gov/extrmurl/software/training/WebCourse/part-two/onsite/index>

Alaska

3Wetland Delineation Training Session:

A training course on Wetland Delineation will be held on the Kenai Peninsula the week of 24 July 2000. This course will likely not be a sanctioned Regulatory IV course (we will not spend two days on Food Security Act matters) but will focus on wetland delineation and tailor the remaining agenda to the needs that we now have, likely a session on HGM. The course is open to all agency personnel, tribal personnel, but not to private sector consultants. There may be a cost associated with the course but that has yet to be determined. For additional information contact Ted Rockwell at 907/271-3689, or a tribal coordinator in the EPA Anchorage office.

3Water Resources Technician Training Program. Recognizing the need for natural resource management expertise on Alaska native lands, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is considering the initiation of a Water resource Technician Training Program for Alaska Natives in the Summer of 2000.

The training program covers physical, environmental, legal, and cultural aspects of water resources and environmental

management and introduces students to specific subject matters such as, the clean water act, waste water treatment plant and operations, ground water protection, public water supply systems and operations, hazardous waste, basics of fish and wildlife biology, hatchery operations, hydrological cycle, principles of stream flow, and measurement methods. This training depends heavily upon participation of the Federal agencies such as EPA, Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, and the State.

Deadline for applications is **March 31, 2000**. The Water resources Technician Training Program will run for three weeks. Specific training dates will be announced later. Tentative site is Eielson Air Force Base.

Candidates must meet the following requirements to be considered for the training program: **1.** Endorsement from a federally-recognized tribal government or head of a village corporation. **2.** High School Diploma or GED. **3.** Have plans for future education or career development. **4.** A brief one page statement on reasons for wanting to join the program. **5.** Provide general information using the Standard Form 171, Application for Federal Employment, or any other application with similar information.

Submit your application on or before **March 31, 2000** to: Mr Mo Baloch, BIA/Branch of Water Resources, 1849 C Street, NW, Mailstop 4513, Washington, DC 20240; Ph 202/208-6042 or 3956, Fax: 202/219-1255.

Idaho

3The Kootenai Tribe of Idaho has completed an assessment report of the Kootenai River watershed. The report provides an assessment of the health of the Kootenai River watershed system. The assessment focuses upon aquatic conditions for the portion of the Kootenai Rivers and its tributaries below Libby Dam.

3The Nez Perce Tribe of Idaho recently completed and submitted to EPA Region 10, a draft Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP). The purpose of the QAPP is to ensure the accuracy and precision

of all water quality, biological, and hydro logic data collected by the Tribe's Water Resource Division.

3The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes have completed a guidebook and video that addresses the management of tribal agricultural resources and considers issues related to sovereignty, health and economic stability. As stated in the guidebook, "the purpose of the project is to encourage communication between the environmental programs and tribal members." The project was funded through a grant from the EPA Region 10.

Oregon



3On January 26th a Tribal Environmental Agreement (TEA) was signed at the Community Hall of the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua & Siuslaw, in Coos Bay. This agreement was signed by Tribal Council Chairman Carolyn Slyter (center), Tribal Administrator Francis Somday (not shown), and EPA Regional Administrator Chuck Clarke (left). After the signing ceremony was finished, all that attended were asked to stay and join the Tribal Elders for lunch.

Washington

3The Colville Confederated Tribes' Business Council recently adopted a hazardous substances control act for the Colville Reservation. The act regulates the disposal and release of hazardous substances within the Reservation. The main purpose of the Act is to "provide remedial law for the cleanup of hazardous substances sites and to prevent the creation of future hazards due to improper disposal of hazardous substances on or into the Reservation Environment."